

Claim Listing

1-75. (Canceled)

76. (New) A computer network system supporting multiple workstations having browser based communication software, said computer network system comprising:

a Web Farm, said Web Farm including plural communication ports to permit data transfer along communication links between one or more servers in said Web Farm and said plural browser based workstations, said communication links permitting data transfer of select Web-based data to said workstations in accordance with either HTTP or TCP/IP communication protocols;

at least one high speed communication link between said Web Farm and the Internet, wherein at least one server in said Web Farm includes a local cache for storing data received with said high speed communication link from one or more remote servers connected to the Internet;

said workstations further comprising a second local cache for storing data received from said workstation communication link to said Web Farm;

said system further comprising programming to control transfer of data between the Internet and the Web Farm, and further controlling data transfer between said Web Farm and each of said workstations in accordance with a selective algorithm to insure updating of frequently changing data on said remote servers and data frequently requested by said browser based workstations.

77. (New) The system of claim 76 wherein said second local cache includes data stored in data blocks wherein said data block includes an originating IP address and time of last modification.

78. (New) The system of claim 76 further comprising programming to ascertain a frequency of access of data stored at said Web Farm by said workstation.

79. (New) The system of claim 78 further comprising programming for ascertaining a time period between last update times for data in said second cache and corresponding data in said Web Farm cache, and updating said data on said workstation cache when said period exceeds a select limit.

80. (New) A system for distributing financial related data in support of brokerage and consulting functions, said system including:

plural, browser based workstations each providing a local workstation data cache to said browser for storing financial business related data, said data having time based marker to indicate an aging of said data;

a Web Farm comprising at least one local server for connecting to plural remote servers across the Internet, said Web Farm further comprising a Web Farm data cache, for storing financial data, said Web Farm further comprising programming for requesting and retrieving data from said remote servers in response to user requests entered at said workstations or automated requests generated in accordance with a frequency that said data is requested by said users.

81. (New) The system of claim 80 or 76 further comprising programming to confirm accuracy and current availability of a URL associated with stored or requested data.

82. (New) The system of claim 80 further comprising programming for storing in said Web Farm cache data having organizational value and associated use by plural workstations.

83. (New) The system of claim 80 wherein said data comprises stock price information.

84. (New) The system of claim 80 further comprising programming on said plural workstations to first query workstation cache for selected data and only if said selected data is not found in said workstation cache or has aged beyond a pre-sent limit, query said Web Farm cache for said selected data for transfer to said workstation cache.

85. (New) The system of claim 76 further comprising programming on said Web Farm to poll connected workstations for URLs stored in a registry and to assign default URLs to one or more workstations missing a pre-set URL in its registry.

86. (New) A data processing method for use in support of brokerage and/or financial consulting services including the steps of:

- a. storing in a Web Farm, financial related data in a Web Farm cache;
- b. entering commands in plural workstations, requesting financial related data for use by operators of said workstations;
- c. retrieving, in response to said entered commands, said financial data corresponding to said commands from a workstation cache, if available;
- d. retrieving, in response to said entered commands, said financial related data stored in said Web Farm corresponding to said commands, if available and not available in said workstation cache; and
- e. retrieving, in response to said entered commands, said financial related data stored on one or more remote servers, if said financial related data is not available in either said workstation or Web Farm cache.

87. (New) The method of claim 86 further comprising the steps of measuring frequency of requests for select data in said commands and automatically updating said select data that is frequently requested and storing said updates in said Web Farm cache.

88. (New) The method of claim 87 wherein said data includes stock price and transaction information.

89. (New) The method of claim 87 further comprising the step of removing data from said workstation cache that is redundant with data stored in said Web Farm cache.

90. (New) The method of claim 87 further comprising the step of automatically updating data stored in said Web Farm cache with corresponding newer data from remote servers, if said Web Farm data ages beyond a pre-set limit.

91. (New) The system of claim 80 further comprising programming on said Web Farm to poll connected workstations for URLs stored in a registry and to assign default URLs to one or more workstations missing a pre-set URL in its registry.